

MINISTER'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
for the
CHILD YOUTH and FAMILY SERVICES ACT

ACTIVITY REPORT
2007-2008

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:

Pursuant to the *Transparency and Accountability Act*, the Minister's Advisory Committee (MAC) will report as a Category Three government entity. I am pleased to provide the Activity Report for the Minister's Advisory Committee (MAC) for the fiscal year, April 2007 – March 2008. The Minister's Advisory Committee is a legislated committee under Section 75 of the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act*. This Committee is appointed by the Minister and is responsible to review the operations of *The Act* and report to the Minister on whether, in its opinion, the principles and purpose are being achieved.

This Activity Report provides an overview of the MAC during the past fiscal year and identifies accomplishments for this reporting period. In the development of this report, careful consideration was given to the strategic directions of government, as communicated by the responsible minister. My signature below is indicative of the committee's accountability for the preparation of this report and the achievement of results.

Sincerely,



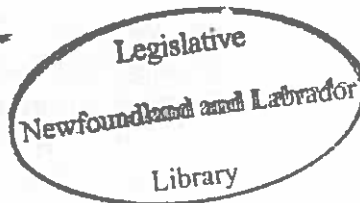
Mr. Des Dillon (Chair)
Minister's Advisory Committee

Table of Contents

September 2008

*Minister's Advisory Committee
Activity Report 2007-08*

- 1.0 MAC Overview
- 2.0 Committee Membership
- 3.0 Financial Statement
- 4.0 Mandate
- 5.0 Primary Clients
- 6.0 Values
- 7.0 Vision
- 8.0 Mission
- 9.0 Objective
10. Appendix A: Strategic Direction



Lewis Coles	appointed under Section 75(2) (b) as the representative from a health board
Ivy Burt	appointed under Section 75(2) (c) as a representative of the Minister
Mary Bungay-Gaultois	appointed under Section 75(2) (f) as a community representative
Vacant	There is currently one (1) vacancy to be filled under Section 75(2) (a) for a consumer representative.
Vacant	There is currently one (1) vacancy to be filled under Section 75(2) (e) for a person representing a cultural, linguistic or racial minority group.

3.0 Financial Statement

The committee is not required to have an audited financial statement. The Department of Health and Community Services covers travel and other associated costs for the work of this committee.

The following outlines the expenditures for activities in 2007-08:

Fiscal Year 2007/08 Expenditures

Travel	\$ 3,013.00
Supplies	\$ 303.46
Professional Services	n/a
Purchased Services	\$ 150.00
Total:	\$3,466.46

4.0 Mandate

In accordance with Section 75 (1) of the *Child Youth and Family Services Act*, the following mandate has been set out for the Minister's Advisory Committee.

"The Minister shall establish an advisory committee whose function is to review every two years, the operations of this Act and to report to the Minister concerning its operation and stating whether, in its opinion, the principles and purpose of the Act are being achieved."

- prevention activities are integral to the promotion of the safety, health and well-being of a child
- kinship ties are integral to a child's self-development and growth and if a child's safety, health and well-being cannot be assured in the context of the family, the extended family shall be encouraged to care for the child provided that a director can be assured that the child's safety, health and well-being will not be at risk
- the cultural heritage of a child shall be respected and connections with a child's cultural heritage shall be preserved
- in the absence of evidence to the contrary, there shall be a presumption that a child 12 years of age or over is capable of forming and expressing an opinion regarding his or her care and custody

The MAC will demonstrate these guiding principles through the following core values:

Integrity	We are committed to ensuring recommendations that are based on review processes, findings and evidence.
Collaboration	We are committed to making every effort to create opportunities for input and participation of individuals, groups, organizations and communities in the review process.
Privacy	We are committed to ensuring that sensitive information is held in confidence and is shared only with those who need to know and is treated with care and responsibility.

8.0 Mission

As a category 3 government entity, the MAC has the option of adopting the mission of the Department of Health and Community Services or developing its own. The 2007-08 Transitional Activity Plan that applies to the 2007-08 reporting period identifies the function of the committee which is to review every two years, the operations of the *CYFS Act* and submit a report to the Minister on whether in its opinion, the principles and purpose of the legislation are being achieved. The MAC report will outline the processes utilized to reach the conclusions and recommendations. This report will then be tabled in the House of Assembly.

By March 31, 2011, the MAC will have submitted a report to the Minister of Health and Community Services on whether the principles and purpose of the Child Youth and Family Services legislation are being achieved.

Measure: Education session and information provided to Committee members

PLANNED INDICATORS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Regular meetings are held to provide presentations and opportunity for discussion of regional information on the operation of the legislation	<p>Met in June 2007 and maintained contact though other mechanisms (telephone & email).</p> <p>Minister of HCS attended meeting with MAC members.</p> <p>MAC continued efforts to recruit new members to fill vacancies.</p>
Information packages are provided to MAC members	<p>MAC received information and updates on departmental initiatives directed at strengthening the CYFS system including the budget, staffing, reviews upcoming and current initiatives.</p> <p>Provided with presentation on Budget 2007/08 initiatives from departmental representatives in CYFS.</p> <p>MAC members provided with a summary report of presentations from the Regional Directors of CYFS.</p> <p>Presentation provided to MAC members on the strategy being developed for Children's Services at the department.</p>
Other relevant information sources identified and provided	<p>Chair of the MAC met with the Minister in April 2007 to discuss progress of the committee.</p> <p>Chair attended a Planning Forum for the development of the strategy for Children's Services in February 2008. The information from this meeting helped inform the strategy.</p> <p>An Advisory Committee was developed out of the forum and the MAC chair is on the Advisory Committee.</p>